

Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 OCT 2006

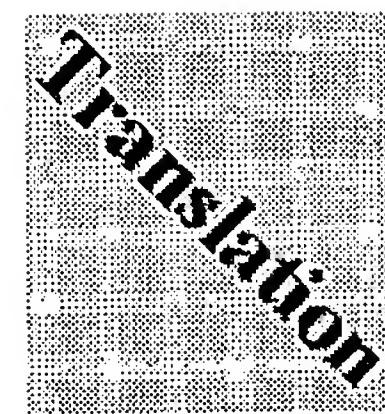
10/553316

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference P-012158		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005258	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 15.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant NIPPON LIGHT METAL COMPANY, LTD.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005258

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.	PCT/JP2004/005258
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Box No. V		Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																									
<p>1. Statement</p> <table> <tr> <td align="center">Novelty (N)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"><u>1-5</u></td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"></td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Inventive step (IS)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"><u>1-5</u></td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"></td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"><u>1-5</u></td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td align="center"></td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Citations and explanations:</p> <p>Document 1: JP 2000-144294 A (Kobe Steel, Ltd.) 26 May 2000</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2001-262264 A (Kobe Steel, Ltd.) 26 September 2001</p> <p>Document 3: JP 5-261562 A (Sumitomo Light Metal Industries, Ltd.) 12 October 1993</p> <p>Claims 1-5 are not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR, nor would they be obvious to a party skilled in the art.</p>				Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	YES		Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	YES		Claims		NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-5</u>	YES		Claims		NO
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